



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: February 16, 2015

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 15-124 which earmarks tax dollars for a non-county service.

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I am vetoing County Board File No. 15-124 pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted a resolution on February 5, 2015 earmarking \$5,000 to the Tavern League's SafeRide program, a non-county function.

SafeRide is a great program that serves an important purpose in our community. However, it is not a program that is run by the County. Milwaukee County is simply not in a position to fund the many valuable nonprofit organizations and collaborative service projects which benefit so many county residents. Providing this earmark funding to SafeRide would create yet another expectation of ongoing funding for a new service when the County already has significant sustainability issues. This County must prioritize the services it provides if we wish to avoid annual cuts to services and employee compensation. Adding another ongoing cost is counterproductive to this concept.

No one disagrees with the laudable mission of SafeRide any more than they disagree with the equally laudable missions of countless other service programs that provide meaningful assistance to citizens in Milwaukee County every day. It is not, however, the mission or role of the County to divert tax dollars to these programs, especially when that comes at a cost to our ability to provide critical and mandated services.

I realize some Supervisors have individual connections or affinities for particular nonprofit organizations and service causes. I applaud your service efforts and encourage you to support the SafeRide program and its mission by volunteering your time or making a monetary donation.